GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1856
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012
NATIONAL RIVER POLICY
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National River Policy for use of river water needs to be amended according to the recommendations made by conservationists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) A review of the National Water Policy, 2002 has been undertaken by the Ministry of Water Resources and draft National Water Policy, 2012 has been drafted to ensure sustainable and equitable development of water resources in the country including river water. This draft policy covers the ecological needs of the rivers, utilizable flows, recycle and reuse of water, drainage channels and institutional arrangements for each river basin.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in pollution abatement in identified river stretches through the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), which presently covers 40 rivers in 190 towns spread over 20 states. Pollution abatement schemes implemented under the Plan include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage; low cost sanitation works on river banks; electric/improved wood crematoria etc.